

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, and 11-22 are amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the February 7, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Wynn, U.S. Patent No. 6,629,137 (hereinafter Wynn). (*February 7 Office Action, pages 3*) The Examiner rejected claims 3, 6-10, 13, 16, 19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wynn in view of George Abe, "Residential Broadband, Second Edition", Cisco Press, December 23, 1999. (hereinafter Abe). (*February 7 Office Action, pages 6*) Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims, as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites:

A device connectable to an external network for use in directing data, comprising:
a single external network interface provided for interfacing with the external network, and allocated with a plurality of physical addresses registered for physically discriminating from other devices; and

a processor that executes a receiving process and a transmitting process of data through the single external network interface, wherein

the receiving process includes:

receiving data having a physical address indicating a destination of the data;

comparing the physical address of the received data with the registered physical addresses;

completing the receiving process when the physical address of the received data matches with one of the registered plurality of physical addresses; and otherwise

canceling the receiving process when the physical address of the received data matches with none of the registered plurality of physical addresses, and

the transmitting process includes:

detecting a destination of data to be transmitted;

selecting one of the registered plurality of physical addresses according to the detected destination of the data to be transmitted; and

attaching the selected physical address to the data, thereby indicating an origin of the data.

The Wynn reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the device specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the device specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Wynn does not teach ***a single external network interface provided for interfacing with the external network, and allocated with a plurality of physical addresses*** registered for physically discriminating from other devices.”

Instead, Wynn discloses a network interface device 26a which is connected to an external, centralized access television (CATV) or cable network and a local network 22 via a network hub 38 (i.e. dual interfaces). (*Wynn; FIG. 1, and Col. 4, lines 59-68*). In the February 7 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Wynn discloses a single interface (i.e the address/data bus 56 through which the processor 52 communicates with the memory 54) that is provided for interfacing with the network. Applicants have amended claim 1 to further clarify the distinction between the device specified in claim 1 and the cited references. As such, the network device disclosed in Wynn is distinct from the device specified in claim 1 because Wynn teaches a dual network interface device which includes a network interface to receive data from the cable network and a second network interface to transmit data to the local network via local a network hub, which is not the same as a device that includes ***“a single external network interface provided for interfacing with the external network, and allocated with a plurality of physical addresses*** registered for physically discriminating from other devices.”

In addition, unlike the device specified in claim 1, as amended, Wynn does not disclose, teach, or suggest a device that includes ***“a processor that executes a receiving process and a transmitting process of data through the single external network***

interface.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Wynn.

Claims 4, 7, and 11-22, as amended recite limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4, 7, and 11-22 distinguish over Wynn for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1, as amended.

Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-10 depend from claims 1, 4, and 7, as amended, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-10 distinguish over Wynn for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 4 and 7, respectively..

With respect to claims 3, 6-10, 13, 16, 19 and 22, the Abe reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Wynn. The Abe reference discloses a data service system over cable which includes a DHCP client. Abe discloses a dual network interface cable modem which receives data from a cable operator via a first interface and transmits data to an host system via a second interface. (*Abe*; FIG. 3.5) Thus, the combination of Wynn and Abe does not disclose, teach, or suggest a device which includes “*a single external network interface provided for interfacing with the external network, and allocated with a plurality of physical addresses* registered for physically discriminating from other devices” or “*a processor that executes a receiving process and a transmitting process of data through the single external network interface.*” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that independent claims 3, 6-10, 13, 16, 19 and 22, as amended distinguish over Wynn in combination with Abe.

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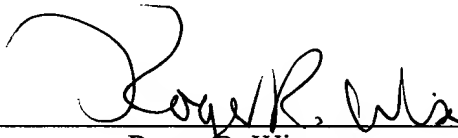
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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